

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

Howard County

July 2015 Edition

## Welcome!

July is Recreation & Parks Month! As you enjoy your summer, challenge yourself to get up and active. Looking for ideas? Go to our Recreation & Parks [website](#) and you'll find everything from workouts to wellness to getting wet at the pool or even wild with nature. There's always a way to express the many valuable benefits of recreation and parks. In addition, in this newsletter you'll find upcoming events and ways to stay engaged in our community. For more up-to-the-minute information, "[Like](#)" me on Facebook or

"[Follow](#)" me on Twitter (@CalvinBallTeam). You can also register for District 2 updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Have questions, comments, concerns or ideas on how I can better serve Howard County? Please call or email my office. You can reach me at 410-313-2001 or [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

If you would like to register to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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## Plutopalooza



Explore the mystery of space and celebrate New Horizons' historic Pluto flyby during Plutopalooza! Tomorrow, **Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm** at JHU-APL Kossiakoff Center, get to know the coolest dwarf planet "out there", visit an Exploration Station and catch a Plutopalooza show at 11am or 2pm. This event is FREE, open to the public and all ages are welcome. For more details, click [here](#).

## Long Reach Pool Party 2015

Calling all Kendall Ridge residents... You are cordially invited to a Long Reach Pool Party, **Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> 6 to 8:30pm!** There will be fun, games & a rockin' DJ! Long Reach residents only may be accompanied by a maximum of 3 children per adult. Reservations are required due to limited space. Tickets are available through tomorrow, **July 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Residents will dine on pizza and sodas while enjoying a night of swimming. One non-perishable food item (no glass containers) is required for each FREE ticket. Please check the expiration date as no expired items will be accepted and all donations will be made to the HC Food Bank. For tickets or more details, please call **410-730-8113**.

## Community Policing Forum

The Howard County Police Citizens' Advisory Council invites residents to participate in a community policing forum on **Wednesday, July 22, 2015 7-9pm** at **Mt. Hebron High School, 9440 Old Frederick Rd in Ellicott City**. Participants will be asked to share their ideas on topics including: Police Technology, Officer Training, Community Outreach Programs and Neighborhood Police Satellite Offices. For more information, please email [policeiaison2@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:policeiaison2@howardcountymd.gov).

**COMMUNITY POLICING PUBLIC FORUM**  
Come be a part of a public forum on Community Policing!  
We want to hear your thoughts and ideas on topics such as:  
  
Police Technology  
Officer Training  
Community Outreach Programs  
Neighborhood Police Satellite Offices  
  
**Wednesday, June 17**  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Wilde Lake High School  
5460 Trumpeter Road  
Columbia  
  
**Wednesday, July 22**  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Mt. Hebron High School  
9440 Old Frederick Road  
Ellicott City  
  
For more information email [policeiaison2@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:policeiaison2@howardcountymd.gov)  
**HOWARD COUNTY POLICE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## Lyme Disease Presentation – Disease, Treatment, and Living with Lyme

Please join us for a presentation on Lyme disease on **Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **7:00pm to 8:30pm** at **The Other Barn**. The numbers of those who have Lyme disease are staggering and growing. This presentation will cover the basics and create an awareness of Lyme disease. It is free and open to the public and will include time for Q & A. For more information, contact **Sandy Cederbaum**, Oakland Mills Village manager at [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) or call **410-730-4610**.



## P.L.E.D.G.E. Summer Leadership Camps

P.L.E.D.G.E. (Pride, Leadership, Education, Diversity, Gang resistance, and Evaluation) is a free, one-week program to help students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade to develop leadership skills. With discussions and practical activities, participants learn the value of teamwork and skills. One highlight of the camp is a field trip to Terrapin Adventures, where campers participate in confidence-building activities. If you know of a student who would benefit from the camp, please submit his/her name for consideration to any School Resource Officer. The first camp will be held **July 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**. The second camp of the year will be held **August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, please visit the [HCPD website](#).

## Howard County's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival and Restaurant Weeks



Sip and Savor the season as you indulge in Howard County's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival and Restaurant Weeks **July 20-August 3, 2015**! Enjoy local flavors and creative recipes from your favorite Howard County restaurants and farms. This year the "Festival" will feature the film "Farmland" which focuses on individual young producers through the United States and will be held on **Tuesday, July 21 6-8:30pm** at **Clarks Elioak farm**. It will begin with an array of delicious farm fresh food samples and includes live music and educational booths. For more details or to register, go [online](#).

## Collision Avoidance Training

The Howard County Police Department will be conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) classes from March to December. This is an advanced defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. This one day program (8.5 hours) is designed to provide young drivers with the knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics and will provide practical exercises that demonstrate how the vehicle responds in a given situation and how to regain control of the vehicle. Driving skills addressed include: evasive maneuvers, threshold/emergency braking, forward serpentine, cornering, backing, reverse serpentine and skid and off-road recovery.

Students must be able to operate their own vehicle and successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver in order to receive a certificate of completion. The cost is \$95 for each session. Sessions are: **July 25, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 12**. For more information about CAT, please contact Ms. Jessica Beram at **410-313-3758** or email [JBeram@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:JBeram@howardcountymd.gov).

### FREE Summer Food Service Program



HCPSS is participating in the 2015 Summer Food Service Program through **July 31, 2015**. A **FREE**, healthy, and nutritious lunch will be provided **12:45-1:45pm** to any child ages 3-18. No appointment is necessary, and there are no income or registration requirements. Parents may simply bring their child(ren) to the summer meal site, located at **Bollman Bridge Elementary School, 8200 Savage-Guilford Rd** in Jessup. More information available [online](#).

### CA Hosts Pool Party for HS Students

Don't miss the CA Teen & Middle School Advisory Committee's coolest summer event yet: A night time pool party with door prizes, music, and more! High School students are invited out on **Friday, July 24 8-11pm** to the Locust Park Pool in the Village of Long Reach, 8995 Lambskin Lane in Columbia. Registration is required for this FREE event. To register, call the Youth & Teen Center at **410-992-3726** or for more info, click [here](#).

## Applications Accepted for MIHU Program

Looking for affordable housing in Howard County? Howard County Housing is now accepting applications for the July open enrollment period for the County's Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program. The enrollment period will end **Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**. The MIHU program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income. The program offers quality new homes at reduced sale prices and rents to income eligible individuals and families. For more details or to register, contact Howard County Housing's Homeownership Division at **410-313-6318** (select option 4) or visit Housing's MIHU [website](#).



## Howard County's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Night Out Kickoff!



Come join family, friends, and neighbors for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual National Night Out on **August 4<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm** at **Vantage House, 5430 Vantage Point Rd, 6:30 to 8:30pm**. The evening is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event features a live concert, Howard County Police Department displays, and much more! If your neighborhood has not signed up to register and would like to do so, please contact the HCPD! Free for all ages. For more information, call **410-313-0390**.

## Oakland Mills Community Pool Party and National Night Out

Join us for the Oakland Mills Community Pool Party in honor of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Night Out, **August 4<sup>th</sup>**! This pool party is open to Oakland Mills residents only. Tickets are now available at **The Other Barn** and are \$3 per person, ages 3 and older. The pool location will be disclosed at tickets purchase. Advanced tickets only. No refunds and no rain date. For more details, please contact **Brigitta Warren** at **410-730-4610**.

## Apply for the State Energy Efficient Programs

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Low Income Energy Efficiency Programs are designed to help low income Marylanders' save money on utility bills; improving the comfort, health, and safety of their homes; and repair or replace non-functioning heating systems by offering no cost energy efficiency upgrades. The Department is seeking eligible candidates for its programs. For more information, please call **1-855-583-8976** or visit the [website](#).



## Free Summer Rec Program – Community Athletic Program (CAP)

The summer, a mobile rec center is coming to your neighborhood! This program is **FREE** and features a traveling trailer filled with sports gear, games and video game equipment staffed by our school resource officers. The Community Athletic Program (CAP) is deployed to neighborhoods where youth gather – usually unsupervised – and offer productive activities and promote positive relationships between youth and police. Activities include: basketball, baseball, flag football, floor hockey, tennis, board games and video games. This year, CAP will operate **Mondays** (Talbot Springs Pool, free swim, 12-3:20pm), **Tuesdays** (Blandair Park) and **Fridays** (North Laurel Community Center) **9am-5pm** through **August 7**. Kids can stay all day or a part of the day. For more information, click here or call **410-313-2620**.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard County Fair

Celebrate Howard County's farming, both past and present, at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard County Fair! Enjoy lots of family fun as you peruse livestock exhibits, carnival rides and games, demonstrations, parades, contests, and more! The event will be held **Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>** through **Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** at the **Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd** in West Friendship. **Tuesday, August 11** is Senior Day at the Fair. **FREE** all day admission for Age 62+ with additional program highlights available [online](#). For more information, [go online](#) or call **410-442-1022**.



## Art of Howard County 2015



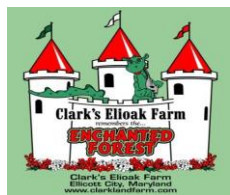
The Howard County Arts Council is now accepting submissions for *Art Howard County 2015*. If you are a visual artist, 18 years or older, who lives, works, or studies in Howard County, Maryland, you are eligible to apply to this biennial, juried exhibit. The juror for *Art Howard County 2015* will be Paula L. Phillips, Community Artist and Professor at Maryland Institute College of Art. Details for entry are included in the prospectus and entry form, available for download on the ['Exhibits' page of the Arts Council Website](#), for pick-up at the Howard County Center for Arts, or by mail by calling **410-313-2787** or emailing [info@hocoarts.org](mailto:info@hocoarts.org). The deadline for submissions is **11:59pm on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**.

## Howard County Government Launches "Utilli" & H2o – Help to Others Program

Howard County Government unveiled a new application that gives our water and sewer customers instant account access. "Howard County Utilli", a mobile and web-based application, provides users with 24 hours/day, 7 days/week secure access to their water and sewer account as well as the option to pay their bill online without incurring a convenience fee! Creating an account takes only minutes and customers can view consumption, billing/payment history and meter reading history. There are also options to sign-up for the County's Direct Debit program or donate to the new "H2O Help to Others" program, the Council enacted last year, which went into effect this past March which connects County residents who need help paying their bills with residents who want to help. Residential customers may voluntarily round up their bills to the nearest dollar. For more details or to register, go [online](#).



## Enchanted Forest's 60<sup>th</sup> Goth Birthday Celebration



Come out and wish the Enchanted Forest a very happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday August 15-16, 2015! There will special family activities all day, fairy tale characters, story time and crafts, face painting and more! On Saturday, they will host the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Enchanted Forest Employees Reunion 10am-2pm where all former Enchanted Employees will be admitted FREE. If you're a former employee, RSVP to [clarkselloakfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:clarkselloakfarm@hotmail.com). A special goth birthday celebration and ribbon-cutting for the Enchanted Forest will be held Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. For more details, call 410-730-4049 or go [online](#).

## 2015 Howard County Farmers' Markets Are Open!

Neighbors and food enthusiasts are invited out to purchase locally grown produce from area farmers! [Howard County Farmers' Market](#) remains in full swing and with convenient locations, shoppers can buy fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, baked goods and much more!

**Howard County Library-Miller Branch** (9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City)

Hours of Operation: Wednesdays 2-6pm; through November 11

**Oakland Mills Village Center** (5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia)

Hours of Operation: Sundays 9am-1pm; Season: through November 22

**Howard County General Hospital** (5755 Cedar Ln, Columbia)

Hours of Operation: Fridays 2-6pm; Season: through October 30

**East Columbia Library Market** (6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia)

Hours of Operation: Thursdays 2-6pm; Season: through November 19

**Ellicott City Old Town Farmers' Market** (Uptown at the Win Bin and Midtown at Little French Market)

Hours of Operation: Saturdays 9am-1pm; Season: through October 31



## Columbia Archives is Moving!

On **August 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Columbia Archives will relocate to the new Columbia Association headquarters at **6310 Hillside Court**. In preparation for the move, they will be closed to the public during the month of August and will have limited access to their collection. Due to the move, they are not accepting any donation of materials until **September 15**. If you have items you think would be of interest to them, please call their office at 410-715-3103 or email [Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org).

## Cul De Sac/Street Beautification Grants

The Long Reach and Oakland Mills Community Association are pleased to announce that funds are now available for street beatification on a first-come, first-serve basis. LRCA landscaping grants could provide funds up to \$200 for approved plans for the purchase of plant materials and provide coupons from local nurseries to help stretch your dollars. Application packets are available until **August 30<sup>th</sup>**. Please call 410-730-8113.

OMCA Cul-de-sac Beautification grants of up to \$75 are available for up to 15 streets. There are also block party reimbursement funds of up to \$25 available for up to 20 streets. Funds will be reserved based on availability once a request is received. Landscape proposals need to accompany the requests. For more details, please email [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) or call 410-730-4610.

## Take a Survey and Help Us Plan for Emergencies

The Howard County Office of Emergency Management would like to hear from you. As a part of an upcoming risk assessment, we would like to hear how natural hazards affect you and your family. The results of this survey are an important part of Howard County's emergency planning efforts. Please take 5 minutes to complete a [short survey](#). Thanks from the staff of the Office of Emergency Management!

## CA's Lakefront Summer Festival

Another great summer of movies, concerts and much more is beginning with the return of Columbia Association's annual Lakefront Summer Festival! The schedule includes complete free, family friendly offerings nearly every evening of the week. A full schedule can be found [online](#). Movies will be screened at **Lake Kittamaqundi** under the stars on Mondays and Fridays through **August 21**. Then, **August 22-September 12**, CA will show movies every Friday and Saturday. All showings begin at dusk (about 8:30pm).



## Long Reach Village Center Urban Renewal Plan Community Meetings Continue



I want to thank the hundreds of residents who have joined me, the Long Reach Village Board, our consultants, stakeholders, and our dedicated County staff who have attended the first two community meetings as we work to develop an Urban Renewal Plan for the Long Reach Village Center. Your feedback is vital as we work towards a new vision and future for our community.

There will be one additional community meeting as we move forward, held at 7pm at the Stonehouse. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, attendees were presented with conceptual architectural plans and solicited for feedback. On **Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, final concept plans will be presented to the community. I invite you be a part of this continued community conversation about our shared vision for the future of our Long Reach Village Center.

## Hispanic Cultural Fair

Enjoy delicious ethnic foods, entertainment, artisan crafts, and children's activities at the Hispanic Cultural Fair, sponsored by the County's Department of Recreation and Parks! The event will be hosted on **September 12, 2015 1-4pm** at the **North Laurel Community Center**, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel. This event is FREE and open to the public. If interested in participating as either a vendor or an entertainer, please call **410-313-0459**.

## Long Reach Flea Market

Looking to buy or sell your treasures? Come out to the Long Reach Flea Market on **September 19, 2015 8am-12pm** at the **Long Reach Village Center**! Each space costs \$20. Note: This event is NOT open to commercial vendors, political causes or candidates. Promotional/informational materials may NOT be distributed. For more information on this event, please stop by Stonehouse or call **410-730-8113**.



## Columbia BikeAbout



Mark your calendars and join Columbia Association's (CA) Columbia Archives for the free, fun, and informative annual Columbia BikeAbout! This tour will be held on **Saturday, September 26th 9:30-1pm**, starting from the **Downtown Columbia Lakefront**. The Columbia BikeAbout highlights the history of Columbia, as well as the extensive pathway system and open space that contributes to Columbia's high quality of life.

Pre-registration for the BikeAbout is encouraged, but not necessary. Registration can be done online [here](#). For more details, email [Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org) or call **410-715-6781**.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual 50+ Expo

Howard County's 17<sup>th</sup> annual 50+ will take place **Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9am-4pm** at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia**. Geared towards adults, ages 50 and older, caregivers, family members and health care professionals, the EXPO features exhibitors, life-enriching workshops and healthy aging seminars, a living green fair, great food and all day entertainment. New this year: \$1 admission fee for all attendees over 18, donated to the Vivian L. Reid Community Fund, which will help provide emergency financial assistance to older adults and adults with disabilities in Howard County whose needs are essential and generally not covered by Medicare and Medical Assistance. Stay tuned to the [EXPO website](#) for more information or call **410-313-6410**.



### NEW MD Law on Compulsory School Attendance

The MD General Assembly passed and the governor signed into law Senate Bill 362, Age for Compulsory Public School Attendance, which increases the age of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18. Phase I became effective on **July 1** & increases the age from 16 to 17. Phase II must be fully implemented and increases the age from 17 to 18 by beginning of 2017-2018 school year.



## Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution - Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers. HS students (Ages 13-19) and MS students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email [CA Teens@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:CA Teens@ColumbiaAssociation.org) to sign up. Meetings are the **third Thursday** of the month **6:30-8pm** at the Youth & Teen Center in The Barn, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

**4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at **The Other Barn 3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info.

**Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment program at **Columbia Art Center**. Meets **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**. Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

**Columbia Teen Center:** 410-992-3726

**Howard County Library**

**Voices For Change:** Email Meg Mekelburg for more info [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

## BGE Tips to Beat the Heat

Summer is in full blast and BGE would like to remind electric customers with smart meters to be ready to take advantage of Energy Savings Days, typically the hottest days of the year when electricity use is at its highest. BGE will notify customers that an Energy Savings Day has been scheduled and those who voluntarily reduce their use on those days are eligible to receive BGE Smart Energy Rewards®. These bill credits provide \$1.25 for every kilowatt-hour reduced from 1pm to 7pm compared to typical usage.

Participants in BGE PeakRewards® program receive bill credits by allowing their central air conditioner and/or electric water heater to be cycled during periods of peak electricity usage. Customers can follow these simple tips to save energy and money this summer:

- **Turn it off:** Turn off all unnecessary lighting and devices.
- **Manage your thermostat:** Keep thermostats at a constant, comfortable level when at home. Raise the thermostat setting for days of extreme heat to save even more. Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping.
- **Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed:** About 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through windows. Simply closing blinds and curtains, which act as a layer of insulation, can reduce heat in your home.
- **Use ceiling fans to circulate air:** For those without air conditioning, use ceiling fans or portable fans with the windows partially open to circulate fresh air into your home. For those with air conditioning, fans can be used to evenly distribute cool air.
- **Use appliances wisely:** Run appliances that produce heat (like clothes dryers, ovens and dishwashers) at night when it is cooler.
- **Be energy smart:** Use energy more efficiently through the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program® that includes Quick Home Energy Check-ups, lighting discounts, appliance rebates and many more energy saving programs at [www.BGESmartEnergy.com](http://www.BGESmartEnergy.com).

For more information on BGE's SummerReady program, go [online](#). For BGE customers experiencing a power outage, please call 1-877-778-2222.

## Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)!

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) are grants up to \$2,000 to assist adults with development disabilities and families with a child with developmental disabilities with purchasing services and/or items to address needs. MD residents who have a developmental disability, their family or authorized representative may apply. Requests can be submitted **January 1-31 and July 1-31** of each year.

For more details or to receive a copy of the application, go [online](#) or contact the LISS agency serving Howard County: Penn Mar Human Services, 410-357-0891; 1-877-282-8202; TTY: 711 or email [LISS@penn-mar.org](mailto:LISS@penn-mar.org).

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

The Loan Closet of Howard County is a wonderful resource for borrowing medical equipment for temporary use. No income restrictions. Call **410-740-1643** between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. For more information, [go online](#).

## Settlement Downpayment Loan Program!

Looking to buy a home or relocate in Howard County? Howard County Housing has invested \$400,000 to the Department's Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP) that will offer homebuyers a deferred second mortgage loan, to be used by those preapproved for settlement costs and downpayments. Buyers must agree to occupy the home as their primary residence. Interest rates are set at 2 percent below the first mortgage interest rate and repayment of the loans is deferred until resale, refinance or default.

Additional incentives, such as loan forgiveness, are available under the Workforce Initiative Loan product for homeowners who work in Howard County. Funds will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Homebuyers interested in applying for the program should contact a participating first mortgage lender to begin the application process. A list of approved lenders can be found on Housing's SDLP [website](#). For more details, please call 410-313-6318 or email [lphillips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lphillips@howardcountymd.gov).

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses. To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call 1-800-506-5806.

## NeighborRide Seeks Volunteer Drivers!

Summer is a great time to make a difference in your community! NeighborRide invites you to help decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County seniors by volunteering to provide rides for medical appointments, social outings, religious services, fitness activities, shopping, and other needs. Daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available and NO SET SCHEDULE IS REQUIRED.

Parents are welcome to bring their children along when volunteering for a wonderful inter-generational experience. Please call 410-884-7433 or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information or go [online](#).

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance, so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?DepFolderId=435&contentId=6442455147> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

[Livable Home Tax Credit](#) (Deadline is April 1 prior to first taxable year for which credit is sought)

[Senior Tax Credit](#) (Deadline is September 1)

[Homeowners Tax Credit](#) (Deadline is September 1)

[Homestead Tax Credit](#)

[Daycare Provider Tax Credit](#) (Must apply to Finance within 30 days after issuance of tax bill reflecting improvement)

[Renters Bay Fee Hardship Exemption](#)

[Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker](#) (Deadline is September 30)

[Community Associations Tax Credit](#) (Deadline is October 1)

[Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit](#)

[Trash Collection Fee Credit](#) (Deadline is September 1)

## Free Financial Coaching!

MyBudgetCoach was launched by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families & individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at [petakl@makingchangecenter.org](mailto:petakl@makingchangecenter.org) if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit [www.makingchangecenter.org](http://www.makingchangecenter.org).

## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Reporting a non-emergency incident? Call 410-313-2200
- File an [online report](#). If you're experiencing an emergency, do not file an online report. Dial 9-1-1 immediately.
- [Register your bike](#) with HCPD. This is a free service for HC residents allowing you manage your bike info and report if stolen.
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784
- Do you know what it means to be [Scam-Smart](#)? Call 410-313-2207 and schedule a FREE crime prevention presentation for your community.
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- Interested in a FREE [Home Security Survey](#)? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available [online](#).
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- Do you need [Victim Assistance](#)? Victim Assistance is located at Southern District, 11226 Scaggsville Rd in Laurel. It's staffed with 2 employees and supplemented with several volunteers. If you need assistance, call 410-313-3712.
- How can I obtain a protective or peace order? Click [here](#) to receive the forms from the District court.
- [Need to report animal cruelty, unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?](#) Call 410-313-2780 or email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov)
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish Liaison? Contact PFC Randy Davis at 410-313-7807 or email [rdavis@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:rdavis@howardcountymd.gov)
- Thinking of HCPD Recruitment? Contact the recruiter at 410-313-4273 (HCPD) or [recruitment@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:recruitment@howardcountymd.gov)
- [Interested in volunteering with the HCPD](#)? Call 410-313-2255

## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!



The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security heightens the community's power of observation and encourages mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.



## Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook, Stevens Forest and Swansfield. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com) or call 410-730-6030.

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services. They provide programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

**Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc.** is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006. The 24-hour line 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

## Commuter Connections - "Guaranteed Ride Home"!



A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation. To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

## Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County as well as a list of upcoming community events near you, click [here](#). For more information, call 1-800-272-3900.

## Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a [slide schedule](#). For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).



## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there's been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, go [online](#). If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, doing so may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information. For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov), call 410-313-2005 or go [online](#).

## I Want to Hear From You!

As your Councilmember, it's important for me to be responsive to you and your community needs. If you have any concerns or ideas on ways we can enhance your neighborhood, I invite you to call or email my office so we can work together. In an effort to promote transparency and increase visibility of all the resources available to you in the County, I encourage you to view my [District 2](#) Council page.

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council  
[District 2](#)  
[Email Me](#)  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

*"The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude;  
be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be  
thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be  
proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly."*

*~ Jim Rohn*